

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING DR. GEORGE A. SIMPSON

**HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 13, 2022*

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, from the 24th district of the great state of Florida, I rise today to recognize Dr. George A. Simpson, as he is honored by family and friends for his many contributions to Miami-Dade County and America.

Whereas, George Augustus Simpson was born on September 24, 1925, in New York, New York. He is a product of New York Public Schools having attended Townsend Harris High School. Dr. Simpson went on to receive a Bachelor of Science degree from City College of New York and a medical degree from Meharry Medical College; and

Whereas, Dr. Simpson served his country in the U.S. Army through Surgical Service. He is licensed to practice medicine in Florida, Tennessee, Mississippi, and Illinois. Dr. Simpson is the First Board Certified, Black general surgeon in the State of Florida. He went on to be an Instructor in Surgery at University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Hospital where he was the first African American to perform major general surgery and to be on the teaching staff in General Surgery. He is a founding member of the Jackson Memorial's Service Employees International Union (SEIU), the first physician's union in Dade County. Dr. Simpson was a professor of Family Medicine from 1968 to 2000; and

Whereas, Dr. Simpson was very actively involved in his community through the Family Christian Association of America, the Coconut Grove Local Development Corporation, the Economic Opportunity Family Health Center, the New Horizons Local Development Corporation, the Alliance for Ethical Government, the Dade County Area Health Education Center, and many more community development corporations. He is an original Member of the Dade County Community Relations Board; and

Whereas, Dr. George Simpson's involvement in the community also included his work with community development as an owner, developer, Board Chairman, Board Member, and manager. This work resulted in the construction of over 250 affordable housing and homeless living units throughout Miami-Dade County; and now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That I, FREDERICA S. WILSON, a member of the United States House of Representatives, representing the 24th Congressional District of Florida, honor Dr. George Simpson for all his contributions to the medical field, Miami-Dade County, and our country.

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF BARRIO CAFÉ

**HON. RUBEN GALLEGO**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 13, 2022*

Mr. GALLEGO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Barrio Café. Since 2002, Barrio Café has been a Phoenix institution, serving up world-renowned Mexican food and promoting Mexican American arts and culture.

Barrio Café was founded by Chef Silvana Salcido Esparza and her business partner, Wendy Gruber. Chef Silvana grew up in the Central Valley of California, learning to cook at her grandmother's side and in her family's bakery. Since opening Barrio Café, she has been featured in Sunset Magazine, Esquire Magazine, and Food Network's Diners, Drive Ins and Dives, and she has been a finalist for the James Beard Award. Now, she is mentoring the next generation of chefs and small business owners.

Chef Silvana is also a community leader in her own right. She has tirelessly advocated for the rights of all in Arizona and has worked to feed those in need during the COVID-19 pandemic. Her leadership and vision have transformed a stretch of 16th Street into 'Calle 16,' a hub for local economic development, flourishing with Mexican art, murals, culture, and food.

For 20 years, Chef Silvana and the Barrio Café have embodied 'comida chingona'. I am lucky to get to call Chef Silvana and Wendy friends, and I wish them all the best on 20 more years of Barrio Café.

CELEBRATING COLFAX'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 13, 2022*

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the founding of Colfax, Washington. This small town in Eastern Washington is known for its productive farmland and family-oriented atmosphere. Colfax is also the county seat of Whitman County—the largest wheat producing county in America—and is a hub for wheat growers that feeds our region and people all around the world.

The history of Colfax is a rich one with roots dating back to the late 1800s. First settled by James Perkins and Thomas Smith, the town was founded on July 10, 1870 and named after Schuyler Colfax, the 17th Vice President of the United States and 25th Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Today, the town continues to thrive amidst the beautiful rolling hills and fertile countryside of the Palouse. Complete with a healthy quan-

tity of history, opportunities, great education, family values, exciting culture, and so much more, it is without a doubt that wonderful things continue to grow in Colfax.

As the representative in Congress for this one-of-a-kind town, I am so inspired by Colfax's heritage of family values. The families here understand the value of a hard day's work on the farm and the invaluable life skills and lessons that come with it. Parents give everything to prepare their children to pursue the American Dream, whether that is one day taking over the family business or graduating college and starting a new career. The people of Colfax truly embody what it means to be from Eastern Washington, and they make it one of the best places to live in the world.

Madam Speaker, on this most special day, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Colfax's 150 years of remarkable history and celebrating their personification of the American spirit.

HONORING WAR HERO AND TRAILBLAZER LUIS R. SIERRA

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 13, 2022*

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Luis Sierra. Mr. Sierra bravely defended our country during the Vietnam War and earned a Bronze Star Medal, the fourth highest military decoration for valor.

Born on December 2, 1949, Luis Sierra grew up in Cidra, Puerto Rico. Eventually moving with his family to the city of Ponce, Mr. Sierra was raised in a Roman Catholic household and was an avid player of baseball and basketball as an adolescent. After graduating high school in 1967, Mr. Sierra spent the next two years working as a Linotype operator.

Mr. Sierra left his job and enlisted in the Army on August 29, 1969. He spent the first few months of his service in Fort Jackson, South Carolina until he was called to join the 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry in the Republic of Vietnam. Arriving on March 18, 1970, his unit participated in numerous battles which resulted in 22 members of the unit, including Specialist Sierra, being awarded a Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service against a hostile enemy.

Along with the Bronze Star Medal, Mr. Sierra received multiple other awards for his service including the Vietnam Service Medal with three bronze service stars, the National Defense Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Ribbon with the 1960 Device, the Sharpshooter Badge with Rifle Bar, and the Vietnam Veteran Lapel pin.

Mr. Sierra was honorably discharged from active duty on April 2, 1971 and he remained in the Reserves until his service ended on July 23, 1975.

Upon his return home, Mr. Sierra married Silvia M. González with whom he had 3 children: Raúl J. Sierra, Silvette Sierra, and

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Esmeralda Sierra. While Raúl sadly passed away in 2021, Silvette is employed as a Spanish Speaking Employment Counselor at the Erie County Department of Social Services, and Esmeralda is the current president of the Hispanic Heritage Council of Western New York, Inc.

Following his service in the Army, in 1988, Mr. Sierra earned his Bachelor's Degree in Marketing from La Pontificia Universidad Católica de Puerto Rico as a part of the GI Bill. He then completed his Juris Doctor and began working in Ponce, Puerto Rico as an Administrative Judge for the Department of Consumer Affairs. Mr. Sierra also opened a private law practice in Puerto Rico, and worked there until moving to Buffalo. In Buffalo, Mr. Sierra worked for the New York State Division of Human Rights as a Human Rights Specialist until his retirement.

Luis Sierra was one of more than 80,000 Hispanic Americans to serve during the Vietnam War who, despite facing racial discrimination, bravely defended our country. We thank Mr. Sierra for his contributions to the war effort and his exemplary behavior while enlisted in the military.

Today, we join the Hispanic Heritage Council of Western New York to celebrate the achievements of Mr. Luis Sierra. Madam Speaker, we stand together today alongside Mr. Sierra, his family, and other Hispanic-American service members for whom we are eternally grateful.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 13, 2022*

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, on Roll Call No. 302, I mistakenly voted yes when I intended to vote no.

#### TRIBUTE TO A GREAT AMERICAN

### HON. CHRIS STEWART

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 13, 2022*

Mr. STEWART. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great American, Mr. Ed Mahen who died this past fall. Edward C. Mahen, Jr., was a dedicated civil servant, an Air Force combat veteran and an extraordinary engineer. Ed worked for the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) for more than 23 years. Prior to his work for the NRO, he honorably served for 27 years as an active duty officer for the United States Air Force, including as a veteran of the Vietnam War.

Ed was always excited about his work. He was fascinated by science his entire life, and he served as a trailblazer throughout his career. He was a leader, a driving force behind innovation, and a model of procurement excellence. Recognized for his contributions, he received a number of awards over his career, including that of Pioneer of National Reconnaissance. His work profoundly influenced the NRO's capabilities, and he has left an indelible mark across the Intelligence Community (IC).

Born in rural Missouri, Ed was raised by his mother and father who were born during the

Great Depression. His upbringing was greatly influenced by his parents' experience, as he was taught the importance of frugality, hard work, self-reliance and family loyalty.

Once Ed entered high school, he was exposed to his first experience with formal education. He grew up in the post-World War II period with its proliferation of science and technology, including rockets and nuclear weapons. While still living at home, Ed built a high-frequency radio telescope to listen to the radio emissions of the planet Jupiter as it would rise at night. In high school, he excelled in science and math. After graduation, Ed worked his way through the University of Missouri and graduated with a bachelor's degree in physics and a master's degree in electrical engineering.

In 1969, Ed Mahen was drafted for the Vietnam War and joined the United States Air Force. His formal education was over, but Ed was a firm believer in life-long learning. He stated, "Education is a continuum. It doesn't stop when you get a degree, and you have to continue to learn. So I never stopped going to school; I just stopped going to formal school . . . If I want to learn cryptography, I go off and study cryptography for a while. And I could figure it out. I could learn about it and apply it . . . So you just never stop learning."

From May 1972 to May 1973, Ed Mahen took an assignment on an AC-130 gunship in Vietnam. As was the case for many young Americans, this was a time of harrowing conflict and quick growth as he matured in a combat zone. In 1972 alone, the squadron lost one-fourth of its airplanes. Ed reflected, "It was the first time anybody really tried to kill me. We tried to die a lot of times." In that year, Ed earned two distinguished flying crosses and eleven air medals, and he flew 144 combat missions. At the end of his tour, Ed returned to the United States and served in various assignments in the Air Force, including overseeing all of the classified strategic and electronic warfare programs. He also served as a technical director for the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA).

In 1996, Ed Mahen went to work for the Secretary of Defense to help resolve the situation in the Balkans, serving as the Director of the Bosnian Command and Control Initiative. He helped establish a peace-keeping mission with no loss of life and kept the price tag within budget.

Upon his return to the United States, as a Colonel in July 1997, the logical next step was promotion to Brigadier General. However, this would entail an assignment away from his family across the country. His upbringing and lessons from his parents meant putting family first. So he retired from a highly successful career in the Air Force.

In 1998, as a civilian, Ed Mahen was recruited by the Director of the NRO to join the agency, where he served as the Chief Technology Officer for the Advanced Systems and Technology Directorate. In the years that followed, he was recognized repeatedly for his many contributions in the field of national reconnaissance. His work defeated current and emerging threats from terrorism and nuclear weapons proliferation—he became a standard of success at the NRO.

In 2009, Ed was nominated for the NRO Director's Award for Excellence in Acquisition. This time he was recognized for developing

capabilities that "have yielded actionable intelligence and made significant contributions to IC missions." Further, "his mission-focused, technically driven, and results-oriented leadership has and will continue to deliver revolutionary new capabilities to help counter the most critical threats to our Nation's security." As well as his technical accomplishments, he served as a role model and mentor for his team.

In January 2020, Ed Mahen was named a Pioneer of National Reconnaissance, the highest award offered by the NRO. The Director of the NRO, Dr. Chris Scolese noted, "Mr. Mahen's work enabled intelligence analysts to understand adversary capabilities and intent and helped our warfighters locate and track adversaries."

Ed Mahen was a remarkable leader, applying the lessons learned over a lifetime of experience and focusing that knowledge on practical, technical problem solving for national security challenges. He developed a unique ability to hire junior people and groom them into subject matter experts. He explained, "The key to program management, the first thing you do is put yourself out of business. So the first thing you do is hire the people who are going to replace you. So this program pretty much runs itself . . . it's sort of the biblical story of teaching people to fish. Teach people to be self-sufficient."

Ed was a storyteller, and he maintained a sense of humor. He illustrated his work at the NRO by telling the story of "Stone Soup," concluding, "A lot of these programs are finding the pieces to stitch together so that you can do things very quickly." Most importantly, he never lost his enthusiasm and wonder for the accomplishments of the NRO. He once reflected, "I think the NRO is a magic place. And I think with visionary leadership, the NRO could do anything."

After nearly 50 years of service to the country, and still an active innovator, Ed Mahen passed away on September 29, 2021. Madam Speaker, our Nation has been blessed and prospered with greater national security by the lifetime of service of Ed Mahen. May he rest in peace and may his wife and family be comforted knowing their husband and father was a true patriot—one who endlessly loved them and his country.

#### HONORING COLONEL RICK ZAMPELLI

### HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 13, 2022*

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to acknowledge Colonel Rick Zampelli for his exemplary dedication to duty and service as the Division Chief of the Army House Liaison Division. Rick is transitioning from his current assignment to military retirement.

Colonel Zampelli was born in Akron, Ohio in 1972 and commissioned from the U.S. Military Academy as an Aviation Officer in 1994. Throughout his career, he has served in several command and staff assignments, including multiple operational deployments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Throughout his career, Rick has served in a variety of significant staff assignments to include Chief of Staff, U.S. Army Aviation and